

Corps Contact

The *Badlands Bombing Range Report* is researched, written, compiled, and distributed by members of the Corps of Engineers, Omaha District BBR Project team. Articles relating to the environmental restoration of the Former BBR may be submitted for publication by members of the RAB; the Oglala Sioux Tribe; federal, state, or local agencies; and the general public. Mr. Thomas O'Hara has been designated as the official point of contact for all public inquiries concerning the Corps of Engineers' efforts at the Former BBR. All calls and letters directed to other Corps representatives will be re-routed through the Public Affairs Office. To avoid delays, please contact Mr. O'Hara directly at the address below.

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RAB NOTES

The BBR Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) serves as a forum for the exchange of information about environmental cleanup at the Former BBR. It provides for partnership among tribal members, citizens, DOD, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State of South Dakota, and others. The RAB brings together people who reflect the variety of interests within the local community and enables early and continued flow of information between all parties.

The next BBR RAB will be held on November 19, 1998, in the Piya Wiconi Auditorium at the Oglala Lakota College near Kyle, South Dakota. The customary pre-RAB training session will begin at 10:00 a.m. This quarter's training will include cultural and technical presentations. The RAB meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to apply for membership to the BBR RAB, or if you have any ideas or comments on how the RAB can improve on its efforts to reach more members of the public and inform the concerned citizens of the ongoing activities at the Former BBR, please contact Mr. O'Hara.

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Inside this Issue. . .

The *BBR Report* is a quarterly publication designed to provide information on activities underway by a partnership of agencies to restore the Former Badlands Bombing Range (BBR). These agencies include the Oglala Sioux Tribe Badlands Bombing Range Project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Air Force. The results of this continuing effort will allow safe development of the land by Oglala Sioux Tribal members.

This issue contains a new column called BBR Facts that presents and answers questions most commonly asked of the project team. We will try to include this column each quarter. If you have a question you would like answered in BBR Facts, please call or e-mail the point of contact at the Corps of Engineers, Omaha District named on the back of this newsletter. This quarter, we answer questions related to the potentially toxic mineral beryllium. Beryllium, which was determined to be naturally occurring, was detected in soil samples collected at the Former BBR. It was determined that these beryllium levels do not pose a health risk.

In **Badlands Faces/Badlands Places**, we have provided a look at two places of interest and one of the most popular project faces, Ms. Bernadine Tallman from the BBR Project Office. Bernadine provides the interesting and always exciting cultural awareness training sessions before each BBR Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting. During the August RAB meeting, a traditional Lakota dance performance was enjoyed by all!

This issue also includes a look at a recent training given to the BBR Project field team, and the regular updates on the Ordnance and Explosives (OE) and Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW) projects; information on the next RAB meeting; acronym definitions; and the project point of contact.



Lakota Dancers in Full Regalia

BADLANDS PLACES

Earlier this year, the fifth Formerly Used Defense Site was identified at the Former BBR. The Demolition Area, designated as Site 5, was identified by the BBR Project staff during the Archives Search. According to an April 8, 1964 document, explosives and explosive filled items were collected from the



Site 5 Demolition Area

bombing range and taken to the Demolition Area to be detonated and/or burned. Metal debris is still present at the site. In order to assess impact to soil at Site 5, a Site Investigation will be conducted (see HTW Flowchart.) Site 5 is located approximately nine miles south of the town of Scenic, one and a half miles south of the northern boundary of the Pine Ridge Reservation (see map inside.)



Oglala Lakota College, Piya Wiconi

The Oglala Lakota College (OLC) was founded in 1971 with the goal of educating tribal people to manage the Oglala Sioux Tribe's own resources on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The OLC provides for a wide range of education from community services to graduate courses and maintains a commitment to academia and tribal, cultural, and community affairs. From its initial status as a community college, the OLC now offers baccalaureate and masters degrees in Lakota leadership as well as certificates and A.A. degrees. While Piya Wiconi is the most visible symbol of the college, it is at the nine district centers located throughout the reservation where the mission is being fulfilled.

The Piya Wiconi Auditorium serves as a gathering place for board members, BBR project personnel, and interested tribal members who attend quarterly BBR RAB meetings. The RAB supports the mission of the OLC by holding its meetings at Piya Wiconi and sharing the lunch service with the different district centers.

- Partners in Progress -

BADLANDS FACES



Ms. Bernadine "Bern" Tallman

Ms. Bernadine "Bern" Tallman is the Cultural Specialist and Public Involvement Coordinator for the BBR Project Office. She is responsible for identifying and documenting cultural and historical areas within the Former BBR and educating the public about their existence. Once these areas have been documented, they may be avoided, appreciated, and used as a basis for educating the public about Lakota tradition. It is hoped that some of these places will be accessible again after the cleanup of the Former BBR is complete.

Bern also gives safety awareness presentations at elementary and high schools, and the different districts within the Pine Ridge Reservation. Currently, most of her time is

committed to public awareness although she hopes soon to provide more opportunities for public involvement. Bern was born at Pine Ridge, but grew up in Gordon, Nebraska. She has lived on and off the reservation and attended the OLC in 1987. She received bachelor of science degrees in human services and sociology and nearly completed a third degree in secondary education. Bern always thought she would be a social worker and a schoolteacher for the tribe, but found that her position with the BBR Project Office fulfills those goals. There, she has the opportunity to teach a variety of topics to a variety of educational levels within the reservation. *"It is my goal to inform the tribe and general media of the existence of the Former BBR and the dangers it presents."*

Cleanup of the Former BBR will eventually allow tribal members to move back to the area. In addition, it will provide much needed employment and training to tribal members, keeping with the ultimate goal toward sovereignty. Bern is proud of her role in the cleanup effort, but has a more personal objective. *"My oldest son plans to go into the military after graduation. Once he completes his duty, he hopes to move back to Pine Ridge and take part in the cleanup of the Former BBR."*

Safety Signs Erected

Thanks to a combined effort by the Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, and the BBR Project Office, new safety signs have been erected on all public access routes leading to the Former BBR. These signs advise all entrants to the park of the potential dangers from ordnance at the Former BBR.



More to come! The National Park Service also developed a brochure on the history and dangers of the Former BBR as well as the cultural value of the land to the Lakota. They are available year-round at the Ben Reifel Visitors' Center at Cedar Pass, S.D. and seasonally at the White River Visitors' Center. Also, a video and a wayside display on the history of the Former BBR are under development and will be put in place next summer.

Rappelling is Vital to Safe Fieldwork in the Badlands

Badlands terrain makes it necessary to understand search and rescue techniques and the fundamentals of mountaineering. Fieldwork will take BBR Project crews to steep escarpments, gulches, and ravines of up to 400 feet. Dangers will abound and it is essential that the crews know what to do should an emergency arise. During September 14 through 18, a training course on rappelling was offered to BBR Project field teams. The Pennington County (S.D.) Search and Rescue Team taught BBR staff the basics in knot tying and anchors, ascending and descending, and low angle and high angle rescues. This and other courses such as first aid and snakebite response are sure to prepare the teams for whatever challenge the Badlands may hold.

BBR FACTS

What is the TOSNAC Program?

TOSNAC (Technical Outreach Support to Native American Communities) is a grant program that provides technical assistance to communities near hazardous waste sites not on the National Priorities List. TOSNAC is available to the Oglala Sioux Tribe to review HTW site information at the Former BBR. TOSNAC provides workshops, attendance at public meetings, assistance for document review, and facilitation of partnerships between tribal stakeholders and communities.

Recently, the BBR Project Office requested a TOSNAC review of sampling results from soil investigations near BBR Sites 1, 2, 3, and 4 (the Debris Burial Pits) and evaluate risks associated with the presence of beryllium detected in the samples. A scientist from the TOSNAC Program presented findings at the August 27, 1998 RAB meeting. For a copy of the minutes from the meeting, please call the point of contact listed on the back of this newsletter.

What is the source of elevated beryllium detected around FUD Sites 1, 2, 3, and 4?

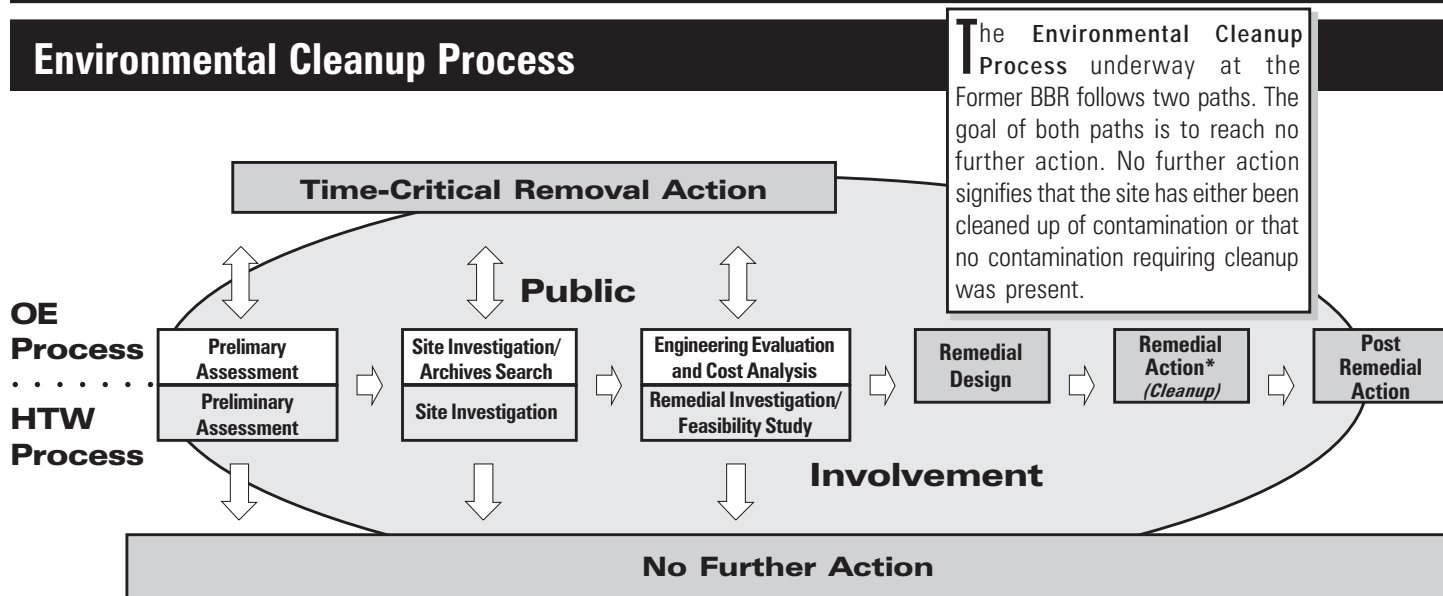
Beryllium is a naturally occurring mineral useful in metal manufacturing for its non-sparking and strengthening qualities. The U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center conducted research on a preliminary list of ordnance reportedly used at the Former BBR and found that no beryllium was used in shell casings or fillers. The elevated beryllium in soil around Sites 1, 2, 3, and 4 is considered to be from naturally occurring minerals in the area. Beryl, a mineral that occurs naturally in the area, may be the source of the elevated beryllium. Other natural sources may also be present.

What are the health effects associated with exposure to beryllium?

Harmful effects of beryllium have been studied in workers exposed during operations in plants where beryllium alloys were machined. If inhaled in high concentrations, beryllium can cause a form of lung cancer.

Preliminary evaluation of soil analyses indicate that levels of beryllium found in soil at the Former BBR present little danger to residents. These levels appear safe even during dusty conditions from high plains winds and farming activities.

Environmental Cleanup Process



*Once OE sites are considered free of ordnance concerns, a Site Investigation or Remedial Investigation under the HTW process may be warranted.

Where We Are in the Process

OE UPDATE

The BBR Project Office completed the *Archives Search Report* and submitted a preliminary draft to the Corps of Engineers for review. The final draft is scheduled for release in December. The Corps will use the information in the report to develop a comprehensive plan to address OE at the Former BBR. In addition, the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System has realigned several sections of its proposed waterline. The Corps of Engineers is conducting geophysical investigations in these areas to identify any metal anomalies (potential OE) below the ground surface.

HTW UPDATE

The first phase of the HTW cleanup process is the Preliminary Assessment, which includes an evaluation of historical documents. It was during this phase that the Site 5 Demolition Area was determined to warrant a Site Investigation. The Site Investigation involves collecting and analyzing soil samples to evaluate whether contamination exists. The investigation at Site 5 began the week of September 21, 1998.

ACRONYMS

BBR	- Badlands Bombing Range
DOD	- Department of Defense
FUDS	- Formerly Used Defense Site
HTW	- Hazardous and Toxic Waste
OLC	- Oglala Lakota College
OE	- Ordnance and Explosives
RAB	- Restoration Advisory Board
TOSNAC	- Technical Outreach Support to Native American Communities

